

Chairperson: Louis Fortis, 276-2222  
Clerk: Carol Mueller, 278-4228  
Research Analyst: Julie Esch 278-4430

**Parks Advisory Commission**

**Wednesday, September 19, 2007 - 3:00 P.M.**

**Milwaukee County Courthouse - Room 203-R**

**MINUTES**

**Scheduled Items:**

**PRESENT: Rafael Acevedo, Jr., John Gurda, F. William Haberman, Henry Hamilton III\* Penelope Stewart, Louis Fortis (Chairperson)**

**EXCUSED: Daniel Steininger**

\*Note: Mr. Hamilton was not present at roll call but appeared shortly thereafter.

1. Introduction of Members

Mr. Henry Hamilton III is an Administrative Judge with the US EEO.

Mr. F. William Haberman is with Michael Best & Friedrich and member of the Herzfeld Foundation.

Mr. Louis Fortis, Publisher and Editor of the Shepherd Express.

Ms. Penelope Stewart is the Manager Community Outreach with the Blood Center of Wisconsin.

Mr. John Gurda is a longtime Milwaukee Historian and author of "The Making of Milwaukee".

Rafael Acevedo, Jr. is the Executive Director of Public Allies.

Ms. Nancy Davlantes is an alternate member of this commission and works with the Greendale Environmental Group.

2. Chairman's comments on direction of Commission (Resolution 07-170)

The Chairman stated that this commission is charged with offering policy and funding guidance. It is the goal of the commission to put together a recommendation based on the review of other best practices with input from the best experts.

## SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

3. Corporation Counsel's explanation of open meeting rules

**Appearance:**

Mr. Robert Andrews, Deputy Corporation Council

Mr. Andrews gave two handouts regarding open meeting rules and public records. (Available upon request) State law governs these regulations.

4. 07-303 A resolution by Supervisors Weishan and Broderick, endorsing the concept of providing property tax relief by increasing the county use and sales tax by one percent (1%) for the express purpose of removing Milwaukee County's transit service, parks, recreation and culture programs and services from the property tax levy. **(Referred to the Committees on Parks, Recreation and Culture, Transportation, Public Works and Transit and Finance & Audit)**

**(The Committee on Transportation and Public Works and Transit referred the item to the Parks Advisory Commission 07/07. Both the Parks and Finance and Audit Committees concurred with the referral.)**

**MOTION BY: (Hamilton)** To accept and hold the resolution for consideration to look at every possible area and examine this and other ideas as to identify the best solution. **(Vote 6-0)**

**AYES:** Acevedo, Gurda, Haberman, Hamilton, Stewart, Fortis (Chair) - 6

**NO:** - 0

5. General background on the Parks **(Presented by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture)**

**Appearances:**

Ms. Sue Black, Director, Parks Recreation and Culture

Mr. James Keegan, Parks, Chief of Planning, Policy and Partnerships

Mr. Josh Fudge, Parks, Budget Manager

Ms. Black gave a presentation involving the scope of the Milwaukee County Parks. Other park systems do not have all the different aspects we have here. They include but are not limited to, a marina, 15 golf courses, extensive aquatic program, trails network, lagoons, parkways, building rentals, ball diamonds and lakefront beaches. Additionally there are over 160 rental contracts with different organizations for the use of building, fields and land use for programs offered by the groups. The Parks also has an extensive partnership with over 40 "Friends" groups. The responsibilities for the maintenance on over 450 buildings also fall on the Parks Department.

## SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

The revenue budgets for operations for the last four years were approximately \$16 million. More than half of these revenues come from three areas, 30% golf proceeds, 19% rentals and 12% from the marina. The Parks receive additional funding for major projects through the Capital Budget.

The commission would like more comprehensive data on the last 25-30 years of budgets. How have the County budgets been redistributed over that timeframe? How have the parks programming changed in the 25 years. How are the last five Best Parks System in Country "Gold Medal" winners financed and governed?

### 6. Future Meeting Dates

The Committee will have its next meeting on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 3 p.m. at the Parks Administrative Building, 9480 Watertown Plank Road.

The foregoing matters were not necessarily considered in agenda order. A copy of the resolutions, amendments, ordinances, reports and correspondence, etc. may be reviewed upon request of the Committee Clerk. The official copy of these minutes is available in the County Board office.

Length of meeting: 3:05 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Adjourned,

Carol Mueller,  
Committee Clerk  
Parks Advisory Commission

**The next regular meeting of the Parks Advisory Commission is  
Wednesday, October 24, 2007 @ 3:00 p.m.**

*ADA accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, 278-3932 (voice) or 278-3937 (TTY), upon receipt of this notice.*